AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (New) A moving picture decoding apparatus for subjecting a bitstream to decoding, wherein the bitstream includes coded data which are obtained by successively coding image data corresponding to a moving picture, said moving picture decoding apparatus comprising:

a decoder operable to decode the coded data included in the bitstream and generate decoded image data; and

a concealer operable to conceal a first concealment area and a second concealment area;

wherein when an error is included in the bitstream, said concealer is operable to conceal the first concealment area which includes the error if the error is a first error, and is operable to conceal the second concealment area which includes the error if the error is a second error, and

wherein a position of the first error in the bitstream can be specified, and a position of the second error in the bitstream cannot be specified.

10. (New) A moving picture decoding apparatus according to claim 9,

wherein the first concealment area corresponding to the first error is smaller than the second concealment area corresponding to the second error.

11. (New) A moving picture decoding apparatus according to claim 9,

wherein the second concealment area includes a plurality of the first concealment areas.

12. (New) A moving picture decoding apparatus according to claim 9,

wherein the first error is a transmission error, and

wherein the second error is a stream error.

13. (New) A moving picture decoding apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

a first error detector operable to detect the first error; and

a second error detector operable to detect the second error;

wherein the bitstream includes coded data which are obtained by successively coding image data corresponding to a moving picture for each of a plurality of first processing units;

wherein the bitstream includes a plurality of synchronization signals, each of which is added to the coded data during decoding of the coded data in order to prevent a propagation of at least one of the first error and the second error;

wherein the synchronization signals are arranged so as to separate a plurality of second processing units from one another;

wherein each of the second processing units includes a plurality of the first processing units;

wherein said decoder is operable to decode the coded data included in the bitstream for each of the first processing units;

wherein said concealer comprises a first concealer and a second concealer;

wherein said first concealer is operable to perform concealment of the decoded image data using at least one of the first processing units as the first concealment area if the first error is detected; and

wherein said second concealer is operable to perform concealment of the decoded image

data using one of the plurality of the second processing units as the second concealment area if the second error is detected.

14. (New) A moving picture decoding apparatus according to claim 13,

wherein each of the first processing units is a unit for coding the image data.

15. (New) A moving picture decoding apparatus according to claim 13,

wherein each of the synchronization signals is a predetermined fixed-length code.

16. (New) A moving picture decoding apparatus for subjecting a bitstream to decoding, wherein the bitstream includes coded data which are obtained by successively coding image data corresponding to a moving picture, said moving picture decoding apparatus comprising:

an error check unit operable to detect a first error which is included in the bitstream; and

a decoder operable to decode the coded data included in the bitstream, operable to generate decoded image data, and operable to detect a second error;

wherein said moving picture decoding apparatus performs different decoding processes based on whether the first error is detected or the second error is detected.

17. (New) A moving picture decoding apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising:

a concealer operable to conceal a concealment area which includes the decoded image data;

wherein said concealer is operable to conceal different concealment areas based on

whether the first error is detected or the second error is detected.

18. (New) A moving picture decoding apparatus according to claim 17,

wherein said concealer is operable to conceal a first concealment area if the first error is detected, and is operable to conceal a second concealment area if the second error is detected, and

wherein the first concealment area corresponding to the first error is smaller than the second concealment area corresponding to the second error.

19. (New) A moving picture decoding apparatus according to claim 18,

wherein the second concealment area includes a plurality of the first concealment areas.

20. (New) A moving picture decoding apparatus according to claim 17,

wherein said error check unit is operable to insert a marker code in the bitstream if the first error is detected; and

wherein said decoder is operable to output a signal if the second error is detected.

21. (New) A moving picture decoding apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising:

a first error detector operable to detect the marker code included in the bitstream, and operable to output a first error notification signal to said concealer if the marker code is detected; and

a second error detector operable to detect the signal output by said decoder, and operable

to output a second error notification signal to said concealer if the signal output by said decoder is detected.

22. (New) A moving picture decoding apparatus according to claim 16,

wherein the first error is a transmission error, and

wherein the second error is a stream error.

23. (New) A moving picture decoding apparatus according to claim 16,

wherein the bitstream is divided into plural data units each comprising a synchronous signal and coding information that follows the synchronous signal, and

wherein concealment based on the second error is carried out on a plurality of the data units.

24. (New) A moving picture decoding apparatus according to claim 16,

wherein a marker code indicating the first error is inserted in the bitstream when said error check unit detects the first error, and

wherein said moving picture decoding apparatus performs the decoding processing based on the marker code.

25. (New) A moving picture decoding apparatus according to claim 16,

wherein said error check unit receives the bitstream before said decoder receives the bitstream.

26. (New) A moving picture decoding apparatus according to claim 16,

wherein a position of the first error in the bitstream can be specified, and a position of the second error in the bitstream cannot be specified.

27. (New) A moving picture decoding method for subjecting a bitstream to decoding, wherein the bitstream includes coded data which are obtained by successively coding image data corresponding to a moving picture, said moving picture decoding method comprising:

decoding the coded data included in the bitstream and generating decoded image data;

wherein when an error is included in the bitstream,

concealing a first concealment area which includes the error if the error is a first error, and

concealing a second concealment area which includes the error if the error is a second error,

wherein a position of the first error in the bitstream can be specified, and a position of the second error in the bitstream cannot be specified.

28. (New) A moving picture decoding method according to claim 27,

wherein the first concealment area corresponding to the first error is smaller than the second concealment area corresponding to the second error.

29. (New) A moving picture decoding method according to claim 27,

wherein the second concealment area includes a plurality of the first concealment areas.

30. (New) A moving picture decoding method according to claim 27,

wherein the first error is a transmission error, and

wherein the second error is a stream error.

31. (New) A moving picture decoding method for subjecting a bitstream to decoding,

wherein the bitstream includes coded data which are obtained by successively coding image data

corresponding to a moving picture, said moving picture decoding method comprising:

decoding the coded data included in the bitstream and generating decoded image data;

wherein when an error is included in the bitstream,

concealing different concealment areas based on whether the error is a first error or a

second error, wherein the first error is detected in an error check unit, and the second error is

detected in a decoder.

32. (New) A moving picture decoding method according to claim 31,

wherein a first concealment area corresponding to the first error is smaller than a second

concealment area corresponding to the second error.

33. (New) A moving picture decoding method according to claim 32,

wherein the second concealment area includes a plurality of the first concealment areas.

34. (New) A moving picture decoding method according to claim 31,

wherein the first error is a transmission error, and

wherein the second error is a stream error.

35. (New) A moving picture decoding method according to claim 31,

wherein a position of the first error in the bitstream can be specified, and a position of the second error in the bitstream cannot be specified.

36. (New) A computer-readable medium having a program stored thereon for instructing a computer to subject a bitstream to decoding, wherein the bitstream includes coded data which are obtained by successively coding image data corresponding to a moving picture, and wherein the program instructs the computer to perform a method comprising:

decoding the coded data included in the bitstream and generating decoded image data;

wherein when an error is included in the bitstream,

concealing a first concealment area which includes the error if the error is a first error, and

concealing a second concealment area which includes the error if the error is a second error,

wherein a position of the first error in the bitstream can be specified, and a position of the second error in the bitstream cannot be specified.

37. (New) A computer-readable medium having a program stored thereon for instructing a computer to subject a bitstream to decoding, wherein the bitstream includes coded data which are obtained by successively coding image data corresponding to a moving picture, and wherein the program instructs the computer to perform a method comprising:

decoding the coded data included in the bitstream and generating decoded image data;

wherein when an error is included in the bitstream,

concealing different concealment areas based on whether the error is a first error or a

second error, wherein the first error is detected in an error check unit, and the second error is

detected in a decoder.